

City of Treasure Island Beach Stewardship Committee

May 8, 2002

1:30 PM

COMMITTEE PRESENT: Robert Minning, Sully Lowe, Dennis Velasco, Barbara Blush, Rick Raus; Cliff Truitt, Coastal Tech;

Chairman Robert Minning called the Beach Stewardship Committee meeting to order at 1:35 PM in the City Hall auditorium, 108th Avenue, Treasure Island, Florida.

1. The draft minutes of the March 13 and April 10, 2002 meetings had been previously distributed. A motion was approved to accept the March minutes as drafted. Barbara Blush proposed that item 4 of the April minutes be amended to insert the names of the sub-committee members who would be working with Ray Green. The minutes were then approved as amended. Additional items were placed on the present agenda to discuss a letter from Cedar Sands and plans for task sub-committee meeting with Ray Green.

2. Cliff Truitt reported on the status of the Sand Sharing project permit application. He distributed the FDEP April 12, 2002 letter "Request for Additional Information" and reviewed its contents with the Committee. Overall, based on past experience, the State response does not seem too bad. A number of the items request information and/or clarification about the ownership of the lands involved at both the borrow and fill sites, and there might be a need to formally survey an easement in the borrow area. Other questions related to potential environmental impacts (e.g., turtle nesting data). Coastal Tech has begun assembling information to address some items and will talk with FDEP staff to clarify their concerns about other sections. Dr. Truitt noted that many of the questions asked were "standard responses" from the State and seem to ignore the fact that, at least in the Sunset Beach fill area, the Corps has been constructing the same basic project for literally decades apparently with adequate assurances about ownership and environmental protection.

3. Last month mention was made of a letter from Richard McLean expressing concern about an increasing erosion problem along a section of Sunshine beach near Cedarsand (123rd to 121st Avenue). Barbara Blush had also informed the City Commission about the concern and indicated that the Committee would prepare a response. Jim Terry had followed-up with USF to get the most recent survey data for review and copies were available at the Committee meeting. Dr. Truitt and Don Hambidge will review and provide input into a response to Cedarsand.

4. At the April Committee meeting, Dennis Velasco introduced Ray Green, a Treasure Island property owner, who offered assistance in developing some type of education piece about the importance of dunes and vegetation with a goal of trying another property owners' survey at some time in the future. Barbara Blush had spoken to the Commission about Mr. Green's offer and had received a very positive response. Dennis Velasco was asked to contact Mr. Green, identify some times when he might be available to meet with the sub-committee members and coordinate those times with Don Hambidge.

5. Committee Member Remarks:

Dennis Velasco noted that he had seen Dr. Davis and his survey/monitoring group on the beach and had discussed the beach conditions with him. Overall, Dr. Davis seemed to be positive and indicated that things looked very good with the possible exception of the same area identified by Cedarsand.

Barbara Blush reported that she had attended a Hotel/Motel Association meeting and had been asked if the vegetation project was "dead." She replied that it was not, but they would be kept informed of any discussion and proposed action in order to have input. She also mentioned that the City Public Works Department had removed a section of "post-and-rope" in response to a resident's request and had received a letter commending the staff for their prompt action.

Sully Lowe asked about status of the 'sand wall' along the beach walk. At an earlier meeting one of the motel owners had noted that some of the concrete panels needed replacing. Rick Raus said that an owner had contacted them recently and the staff tried, but could not find a supplier of replacement panels. Public Works will look again at casting their own replacement panels.

6. The next regular Committee meeting date was set for June 12, 2002 at 1:30

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 PM.